



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7708 | FAX (517) 373.1450

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/

For Immediate Release
January 4, 2005

Contact: Scott Starr
517-373-7708

Sen. Gilbert's reverse 911 emergency notification bill signed

LANSING – Michigan residents could be notified by telephone of natural disasters or other impending danger under legislation signed into law Monday, announced Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac.

“It’s important that residents are warned of potentially life-threatening emergencies in their communities as soon as possible,” said Gilbert, sponsor of the bill. “This new law will provide additional safeguards for the people of Michigan.”

Senate Bill 1267, now Public Act 515, allows emergency service responders to use the telephone numbers supplied to them by telecommunications providers to contact residents regarding an imminent danger or crisis that may affect their health, safety or welfare.

The local 911 agency would be able to program the numbers into an automatic dialer that would reach many residents at one time. Several states already have similar notification systems.

The legislation clearly states that the information can only be used for emergency purposes and imposes criminal penalties for improper use of the provided telephone numbers and other data. It also limits how often a service district can request an updated subscriber list to no more than once a month to avoid placing an unnecessary burden on the phone companies.

“Members of the emergency management community need every possible tool at their disposal to keep our residents safe,” Gilbert said. “I’m pleased to see this bill signed so they have one more way to get critical information to Michigan residents.”

###